

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section on page 2, line 2 through page 3, line 13 with the following amended section:

--The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation, and has as its object to strengthen the security when a host computer connected to a network remotely controls information in an image processing apparatus.

To achieve the above object, according to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, ~~information in the image processing apparatus being processable in accordance with a remote operation from the host computer;~~ the method comprising:

a first authentication transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, transmitting data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer authenticating the image processing apparatus in a case where ~~when~~ the host computer is to remotely operate ~~information in the image processing apparatus; and a second an authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform~~ performing an authentication process for an operation ~~with respect to the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance with an authentication result of the authentication process in the authentication step~~ information on the basis of a code stored in the host computer.

Also, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, ~~information in the image processing apparatus being processable in accordance with a remote operation from the host computer;~~ comprising: a transmission unit configured to, at the image processing apparatus, transmit data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer ~~first authenticating means for performing authentication to the image processing apparatus when in a case where~~ the host computer is to remotely operate ~~information in the image processing apparatus; and second authenticating means for performing~~ an authentication unit configured to, at the host computer, cause the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process ~~for an operation~~ with respect to the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and a remote operation unit configured to, at the host computer, remotely operate the image process apparatus in accordance with an authentication result of the authentication process by the authentication unit ~~information on the basis of a code stored in the host computer.~~

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the figures thereof.--